



Frequently Asked Questions on Hospitality Fee & Local Accommodation Tax Reporting Forms

What is a Hospitality Fee?

The Hospitality Fee is a *one* (1%) *percent fee* imposed by the *Town of Surfside Beach* on:

1. accommodations provided to transients
2. paid places of amusement
3. all food and beverages served by a restaurant, hotel, motel or other food service facility
4. all food and beverages prepared or modified by convenience stores or grocery stores

Why was it necessary to implement a Hospitality Fee?

To fund in whole or in part the maintenance, (re)nourishment, and improvement of the Town's beach and those facilities related to the use of the beach; public transportation improvements; public park facilities, public parking, and capital facilities and equipment necessary for the provision of public safety activities.

Who is responsible for collecting and remitting the Hospitality Fee?

The Businesses that are affected by these fees are liable for the collection of these fees from patrons and are required to promptly remit collections to the *Town of Surfside Beach*.

When is the Hospitality Fee due and how will the fee be remitted?

Hospitality Fees are remitted to the *Town of Surfside Beach* on a monthly basis. The taxpayer may request to remit fees every 28 days if the taxpayer reports sales tax to the SC Dept. of Revenue on the same schedule. Businesses are required to file a report for every reporting period even if no fee is due for the period. The reporting period is defined as the prior month or 28 day period. Remittance is due on the 20th day following the end of the reporting period. A completed Hospitality Fee Reporting form must accompany every remittance.

What is the Local Accommodation Tax?

The Local Accommodation Tax is a one-half (1/2%) percent fee imposed by the Town of Surfside Beach on all transient rentals.

I only rent once or twice a year. Do I still need to collect Hospitality/Accommodation Fees?

Yes. If you handle your own rentals and the renter stays less than 90 days, you must collect the fees.

I rent to someone year round or for a period of longer than 90 days. Do I still need to collect Hospitality/Accommodation Fees?

No. If you have a renter that stays 90 consecutive days or longer at the same location, those rentals are not subject to Hospitality/Accommodation Fees.

Are there any other Fees collected by other agencies or jurisdictions?

In addition to the Hospitality Fee collected by the Town of Surfside Beach, Horry County imposes a rate of 1 ½ % Hospitality Fee. The State of South Carolina charges a 5% Sales Tax plus a 1% Local Capital Project Sales Tax plus a 1% School District Tax (effective 3/1/09) and a 2% Accommodation Tax.

When are fees considered late?

A 5% **per month** penalty, in addition to the Hospitality Fee due, must accompany all returns filed after the 20th day following the end of a reporting period. If the stated due date falls on a weekend day or legal holiday, the following business day is the due date. Any reports mailed on time **must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before the due date.**

When may a discount be taken?

As an incentive for timely filing, a 2% discount may be taken only if the report being filed is postmarked by the **U. S. Postal Service on or before the due date.**

What food sales in restaurants, bars and other food service facilities are subjected to the Hospitality Fee?

All food, beverage, and alcohol sales that are subject to sales tax.

What sales by grocery stores and convenience stores are affected by the Hospitality Fee?

All prepared deli and bakery foods sold in grocery stores and convenience stores.

What sales are affected by the Hospitality Fee for food service which is an accessory to the primary business (arcades, amusements, theaters, gas station/convenience stores, etc.)?

All prepared and/or modified food and beverage items such as fountain drinks, popcorn, nachos, etc. sold at arcades, amusements, theaters, gas station/convenience stores, etc.

What sales are affected by the Hospitality Fee and what are some examples of Paid Places of Amusement?

All paid places of amusement that are affected by admissions tax unless exempted by the South Carolina Code § 12-21-2420. Paid places of amusement include but are not limited to:

1. theater admissions
2. night club admissions
3. miniature golf admissions
4. amusement ride admissions
5. bowling centers
6. green fees

RELATED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Horry County Hospitality	843-915-5220
South Carolina Dept of Revenue	
Sales Use & Accommodation Taxes	803-898-5788

